

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: PCI FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF ANSWERS QUESTIONS ABOUT NATO

1. UNDER HEADINGS "IF THE COMMUNISTS STEP INTO THE GOVERNMENT, WHAT WILL NATO DO?" AND "SEGRE: LET US NOT START ONCE AGAIN WITH THE WAR OF NERVES," THE MILAN DAILY IL GIORNO PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW JANUARY 17 WITH THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S (PCI) FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF SERGIO SEGRE CONCERNING THE PARTY'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS NATO. THE FULL TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW FOLLOWS:

2. Q. ON. SEGRE, THE "NEW YORK TIMES" MILITARY COMMENTATOR WROTE YESTERDAY IN HIS NEWSPAPER THAT IT SEEMS THAT NATO HAS PREPARED EMERGENCY PLANS SHOULD THE COMMUNISTS STEP INTO ITALY'S GOVERNMENT AREA. BEING THE "EXPERT" IN FOREIGN POLICY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING MORE ABOUT IT?

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A. FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN FOREIGN POLICY AND MILITARY POLICY, AND THEN BETWEEN POLITICAL STATEMENTS AND STATEMENTS WHICH, INSTEAD, RATHER BELONG TO A SORT OF WAR OF NERVES WHICH CERTAINLY DOES NOT HELP ITALY AT A TIME WHEN THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IS THAT OF SEEKING THE MOST APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS IN ORDER TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS. ON THE OTHER HAND,

THE ANSWER THAT HAS COME IN THESE DAYS FROM VARIOUS POLITICAL FORCES WITH REGARD TO THESE QUESTIONS WAS CLEAR JUST AS THE ANSWERS THAT CAME FROM OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS.

Q. THE SAME COMMENTATOR SAYS THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE ENTRY OF THE PCI INTO GOVERNMENT, ALL THE INFORMATION CONCERNING STRATEGICAL AND TACTICAL OBJECTIVES IN EAST EUROPE AND THAT CONCERNING U.S., BRITISH AND FRENCH NUCLEAR PLANNING WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY INTERRUPTED. PRACTICALLY, THIS WOULD BE A REPETITION OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH PORTUGAL A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, WHEN THE LEADERS OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY JOINED THE GOVERNMENT. COULD ALL THIS HAPPEN IN ITALY, TOO?

A. I BELIEVE THAT FIRST OF ALL ONE SHOULD ASK HIMSELF WHETHER SUCH A THING DID HAPPEN FOR PORTUGAL. FOR THAT COUNTRY TOO THERE HAS BEEN A PARTICULAR WAR OF NERVES BUT ONE SOON REALIZED THAT A GOVERNMENT WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNISTS BY NO MEANS PRODUCED ANY DISRUPTIVE EFFECT OF THIS KIND.

FORTUNATELY, FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, NOBODY HAS SPOKEN ABOUT IT ANY MORE AND IT SEEMS STRANGE TO ME AND TO A GREAT EXTENT A PRETEXT THAT PEOPLE WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT AT THIS TIME IN CONNECTION WITH ITALY.

Q. SHOULD FUTURE AGREEMENTS ON THE GOVERNMENT LEAD TO A GREATER AND MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE PCI IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNTRY, WHAT WOULD THE COMMUNISTS, ATTITUDE BE TOWARD NATO AND ITS BASES IN ITALY?

A. AS FAR AS ITALY IS CONCERNED, THE PCI'S ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO PROBLEMS HAS ALREADY BEEN EXPLAINED DOZENS OF TIMES; BUT, BEYOND THESE CLARIFICATIONS, THERE IS THE FACT THAT RECENTLY AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE SENATE AND IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES THE SIX PARTIES BELONGING TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL AREA HAVE APPROVED DOCUMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY AND ON THE POSITION OF OUR COUNTRY, DOCUMENTS WHICH OFFERED A COMPLETE SOLUTION FOR ALL THE PROBLEMS WHICH FACE ITALY AND PERHAPS ALL ITALY'S ALLIES. GARDNER

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